

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Grant Awards – 2012



The 20th-century history of the Hualapai Tribe is closely linked with Route 66. In 1947, the tribe gained title of Peach Springs, Arizona from the railroad, and established tribal headquarters there.

Arizona

Project: Hualapai Tribal Route 66 Interpretive Project
Recipient: Hualapai Tribe
Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$10,000 match

Route 66 passed through the lands of more than 25 tribes, yet the tribal experience of Route 66 is seldom told. The Hualapai Tribal Nation is headquartered in the Route 66 town of Peach Springs, Arizona, which is also the tribe's population center and commercial center. Route 66 coincided with an important era of tribal sovereignty and self-determination when the Hualapai tribal council, constitution, and bylaws were created in 1938. In 1947, the tribe gained clear title of the town, and by the early 1950s had taken over its buildings and commerce. Once a bustling main street, three Route 66 properties now remain, including two gas stations and a trading post. The grant will assist with the design, development, and installation of waysides to interpret the buildings and Hualapai story of Route 66 for the public.



Photo by Phil Scandura

Interpretive signage will enhance this 1947 alignment of Route 66, which has been preserved for use as a recreation trail and rest stop.

Project: Flagstaff Route 66 Rest Area Interpretive Project
Recipient: City of Flagstaff
Amount: \$8,750 NPS, \$8,750 match

In 2006, the City of Flagstaff, Arizona worked with the Arizona Department of Transportation to save a 770-foot long stretch of historic Route 66 that was slated for demolition as part of a road improvement project. The city then connected the historic stretch of concrete roadbed to the Flagstaff Urban Trails System, a city-wide network of nonmotorized paths for bicyclists, walkers, hikers, runners, and others. The roadway became a centerpiece of the system when a rest area was developed to celebrate the community's history with Route 66. The grant will assist with the design, development, and construction of interpretive signs that highlight the regional and local history of Route 66 for local users and travelers to understand and enjoy.



The L Motel has operated as a small, family run business for over 60 years, and maintains its historic International style appearance.

Project: Historic L Motel Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$9,500 NPS, \$9,500 match

The historic L Motel in Flagstaff, Arizona, opened its doors in 1949 to the increasing number of Americans traveling Route 66. The property was originally built with a stucco exterior reflecting the Pueblo Revival style. In 1965, it underwent a major change when it was remodeled in the International architectural style, complete with wood canopies, wrought iron posts, and decorative, concrete screen walls. With over 60 years of continuous operation, the L Motel (dba Roadway Inn) has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. New owners purchased the property in 2010, and have made significant improvements to the plumbing, electrical system, interior furnishings, and more. The grant project will assist with stucco restoration and replacement of doors to address serious fire and other safety issues.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2012



The Sprague Super Service opened in 1931, and provided food, gas, and auto repair into the 1970s. It was recently designated a local landmark. Photo ca. 1960s.

Illinois

Project: Sprague Super Service Window and Door Restoration
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$10,000 match

The impressive two-story Sprague Super Service has been an important community landmark in Normal, Illinois since 1931. It operated for 40 years as restaurant, gas station, and garage, serving travelers and local residents alike. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008, inducted into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame in 2009, and designated a Town of Normal Local Landmark in 2011. The owner is working to restore the building for use as a cafe and visitor center. Following a preservation plan prepared in 2009, a new roof and ADA accessible bathrooms have been installed. Grant funds will help complete rehabilitation of the historic, wood frame windows and doors.



Photo by Ron Hurt

As part of a large-scale restoration effort, a deteriorated pitched roof installed in the 1970s will be removed, and the flat roof will be restored to return the Boots Motel to its historic appearance.

Missouri

Project: Boots Motel Roof Restoration
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$12,000 NPS, \$12,000 match

In 1939, Arthur Boots built the Boots Motel in Carthage, Missouri at the strategic intersection of U.S. Highways 66 and 71. He designed the building in a Streamline Moderne style with carports and gas pumps located near the front office. The motel remained in operation until 2001, and soon after became threatened with demolition to make way for a new corner drugstore. Fortunately, the deal fell through, and in 2011 new owners stepped in to restore the motel to operating condition. The grant project will return the property to its historic appearance by removing a deteriorated pitched roof installed in the 1970s. Once the roof is restored, the building will be secure from the elements and become eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Crestwood Bowl sign has been designated a St. Louis County Landmark, making it one of three signs in the county to earn the distinction.

Project: Crestwood Bowl Neon Restoration Project
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$9,500 NPS, \$9,500 match

The American bowling boom began in the 1940s, promoted by the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II as a recreation outlet for servicemen. Bowling alleys sprang up throughout America along major arterials such as Route 66. St. Louis, Missouri, was home to a concentration of bowling stars, and in 1957 three of them formed a partnership to build the Crestwood Bowl. The bowling alley had 24 lanes, a small restaurant, and a bar. Still in operation, the bowling alley has changed very little since 1957, including its neon sign. As one of the few remaining vestiges of Route 66 in the area, the Crestwood Bowl sign has been designated a St. Louis County Landmark by the St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission. Dark since 2009, the neon sign will be fully restored to operating condition.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2012



Photo by Jane Reed

The Wagon Wheel Motel is the oldest tourist court on Route 66 in Missouri that remains in operation as a lodging facility.

Missouri (cont.)

Project: Wagon Wheel Motel Roof Replacement
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$12,733 NPS, \$12,733 match

The Wagon Wheel Motel in Cuba, Missouri opened in 1936 as one of the many tourist courts constructed in response to the surge of automobile traffic during the first half of the 20th century. Most, like the Wagon Wheel, were built by local craftsmen with local materials, and were locally owned and operated. However, few remain in operation today. Not only does the Wagon Wheel still accommodate nightly travelers, it is still locally owned and operated. Ongoing restoration work has included porch, window, floor, HVAC, and roof repairs. Grant funds will assist with final roof repair on the largest motel unit.



Once threatened with demolition, the Circle Cinema is now being restored for continued operation as a movie theater and social venue. Photo: 1953.

Oklahoma

Project: Circle Cinema Theatre Façade Restoration
Recipient: Circle Cinema Theatre Foundation
Amount: \$23,261 NPS, \$23,261 match

The Circle Cinema was built in 1928 on land east of Tulsa, Oklahoma that would soon after become Tulsa's first suburban development. The original construction cost was \$77,000, including a Robert Morton organ that would accompany vaudeville acts and silent movies. The Circle Cinema remained popular into the 1960s, when interstate construction brought decline to the area. By the 1980s, the theater was in poor condition and condemned for demolition until it was purchased by the Circle Cinema Foundation in 2003 as part of community development grant. As the only pre 1960s theater remaining in Tulsa, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The foundation has since undertaken extensive restoration work and reopened the theater. The grant project will complete facade restoration, including entry doors and ticket window.



The El Vado Motel neon sign will be restored to operating condition. Prior to being reinstalled, it will be on loan to a major museum exhibition.

New Mexico

Project: El Vado Motel Neon Sign Restoration
Recipient: City of Albuquerque
Amount: \$6,500 NPS, \$6,500 match

Built in 1937 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the El Vado Motel ("The Ford" in Spanish) was named for its location near an old ford across the Rio Grande River. The motel was designed in the Pueblo Revival style with carports, and originally had gas pumps located in front of the motel office. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is one of Albuquerque's most intact tourist courts on Route 66. Acquired by the City of Albuquerque to avert demolition, the city is working toward a historically sensitive, economically viable redevelopment of the property. To help promote the project, the city will restore the neon sign and then loan it to a major museum exhibition, *Route 66 and the Way West*, scheduled to open at the Autry National Center in mid-2014. The sign will then be reinstalled at El Vado Motel for public enjoyment and long-term use by the redevelopment enterprise.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2012



Photo by Yvette Pascock

Del's Restaurant has been in continuous operation on Route 66 for 56 years.

New Mexico (cont.)

Project: Del's Restaurant Electrical Upgrades
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$1,243 NPS, \$1,243 match

Del's Restaurant in Tucumcari, New Mexico, has been in continuous operation on Route 66 since 1956. Maintaining its historic appearance and ambience, travelers from all over the world still seek out its roadside fare, including chicken fried steak and onion rings. Built in a utilitarian, modern commercial style, the building is a living landmark in the community, and potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Previously awarded grant funds to help restore the exterior, architectural neon, this grant will now assist with electrical upgrades to maintain vital code and safety standards.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The National Trails Intermountain Region administers the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, Santa Fe National Historic Trail, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, California National Historic Trail, Oregon National Trail, Mormon Pioneer National Trail, Pony Express National Trail, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail are administered jointly with the Bureau of Land Management.

These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; nongovernment organizations; and private landowners.

National Park Service
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The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program was established through an Act of Congress to assist private property owners; nonprofit organizations; local, state, tribal, and federal government agencies; and other stakeholders in the preservation of the most representative and significant historic Route 66 properties in the eight states through which the route passes. The program assists in identifying priorities and setting preservation standards as per the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places*. The program serves as a clearinghouse of preservation-related information; provides technical assistance; and offers funding support through an annual, competitive cost-share grant program.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.